

DORCAS EVANS MILLER: Hello. Thank you. My name is Dorcas Evans Miller, and I'm retired. That means that I have time to volunteer. And I have to thank my friends at Pittsburgh Sierra Club and Environment and 350.org for educating me to what I've been learning over time. But now I'm more committed than ever. So I grew up in Springdale, which is on the Allegheny River, about 20 minutes from here, between two power stations between the ages of 5 and 15. The results are health issues for my family that we learned about later, heart disease being one, after five generations of us being in this area. Rachel Carson, author of the "Silent Spring" of the 1960s informed me and the world about poison and effects on humans. She happens to be from Springdale, so I guess that's where we get a little of our activism. I'm proud of her and her message. Currently I'm working with the Clean Power Plan. We are working on volunteering with that and the adopted legislation, adopted legislator. So we are coming after the bodies that can effect change. And I might as well be right up front, blocking extraction from public lands would be my number one priority. I remember the actual soot on our cars and clothes in the 1950s. We lived with the effects of coal, not knowing the health effects later in our life. Energy is now a new path. Renewables are the future, I believe, and I'm learning that in these organizations. I have heard young people like my friend Talia who just spoke here today and the young woman from Seattle, they have asked us, our age people, to become responsible, and we must not miss this opportunity to address coal and its effects on the health and the land. So again, I would repeat, no leases. No leases on public lands. It is our public land. Should we extract any fossil fuel? The answer would be no. From what I'm learning. Please tax carbon so that we can remediate our public lands and leave them the way we found them. I fear for the future and my loved ones on the east and the west coast of the nation and of the world who have lost their lands, who will slowly lose their land because of rising water. We cannot deny that fossil fuels contribute to climate change. There is too much evidence. There is no clean coal. Public lands should not contribute to climate change. In fact, we should contribute to renewable solution. I know we can do it. It is up to us. It is our time. Thank you.